

# LO!

*BEHOLD: THE MYSTERIOUS, THE WONDERMENT OF THE WORLD.*

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**CROSSETT GHOST LIGHT:** Just west of the town of Crossett, AR, a mysterious light is often seen. This yellowish glow, which moves slowly for thirty or forty yards along railroad tracks, has been seen by hundreds of people since the early 1900s. Investigators claim there is nothing to the light. During the first decade of the 20th century, a late-night train came to a stop near the intersection of the railroad and a dirt road that led into Crossett. A minute later, a brakeman climbed down from the caboose and walked along the track inspecting the couplings holding the railroad cars together. Discovering something amiss between two boxcars, the brakeman leaned in to examine the coupling and discovered a loose fitting. As he bent to the task of correcting the problem, the engine suddenly surged forward a couple of feet, causing a chain reaction of movement along the line of boxcars. Leaning out from the cab of the engine, the engineer checked to determine that all was well on the line when he spotted the legs of the brakeman protruding from under one of the boxcars. Turning the controls over to his fireman, the engineer leaped to the ground and raced back down the tracks. When he reached the brakeman, the engineer reeled backward in horror at discovering the brakeman had been decapitated. The bloody head, with wide open eyes staring straight ahead, was lying underneath the coupling. With the help of two crewmen, the engineer loaded the brakeman's body into an empty boxcar. The head, however, remained in the railroad bed because the railroaders were afraid to pick it up. No one ever knew what became of the head. During warm summer nights of the following year, residents began sighting a strange light moving along the tracks near where the brakeman was killed. During the summer of 1967, a group of four teenagers drove to Crossett. They parked alongside the tracks just after sun-down and waited. Around 10:30 p.m., a yellowish ball of light appeared about 30 yards away and three feet above the rail bed. For several minutes, the stunned teenagers watched as the slow-moving light, about 18 inches in diameter, moved along the track toward them. One of the teenagers climbed out of the car and, with pounding heart, stood on the tracks in front of the oncoming light. As the glow approached, the youth reached out toward it, when the light suddenly disappeared. Confused, the youngster looked around and discovered it had reappeared about 20 yards behind him and was moving away. When he returned to the car, he found his friends speechless and frightened. When he asked why, they told him that the ghost light had passed completely through his body as he stood on the tracks! Source: UFO Newsclipping Service, #308.

*THE INTELLECTUAL NEWSLETTER THAT CHALLENGES THE MIND.*

**ICE METEORITES IN CHINA:** Chinese experts have recovered what they believe to be chunks of meteorite ice that fell to Earth in Zhejiang province, Xinhua news agency said.

Amateur geologist Zhong Gongpei was nearby March 23, when farmers saw three large chunks of ice crash with a whoosh into paddy fields at Yaodou village, Xinhua said late Saturday.

Meteorite expert Wang Sichao of China's prestigious Purple Mountain Observatory in Jiangsu province said two chunks recovered by Zhong are probably ice meteorites but further analysis is needed for confirmation, Xinhua reported.

No ice meteorite has ever been verified by scientists before, Wang said. "According to witnesses, it fell with a 'shooo-ing' sound, with a cloudy streak, then came crashing down into three fields about one kilometre apart," Xinhua said.

Zhong rushed to the scene, recovered two pieces and sent both to Purple Mountain on March 29 with the aid of a frozen-food company, which kept them from melting.

The largest chunk, now about the size of a fist, left a crater about one metre in diameter. The second piece was a bit smaller, Xinhua said.

Wang, a member of the International Meteorite Council, cited strong evidence the ice chunks were from a meteor that crashed from space into the Earth's atmosphere.

"They are white, semi-transparent, with an irregular shape and what are apparently air bubbles on both the surface and inside the ice. Unlike manmade ice, the ice has air bubbles, is relatively light and doesn't have the layered structure of hailstones," he said. Source: Delve Report, May, 1995.

**NORTH CAROLINA ICE FALL BLAMED ON AIRCRAFT TOILET:** A Vale man was taken by surprise when a blob of blue ice - likely waste from a commercial plane - fell from the sky and crashed into the roof of his workshop.

The blob fell through Wayne DeVenny's workshop about 10 a.m. April 22nd, leaving a hole about a foot in diameter, said Bill Ward, Lincoln County fire marshal.

"We are talking about a volleyball-size block of ice that went through the roof and floor and ended up in the dirt underneath the workshop," Ward said. "If it was strong enough to go through the ceiling and the floor, it could have been fatal had someone taken a direct hit from it."

The frozen blob likely came from a commercial airplane, according to the Federal Aviation Administration.

"It was probably a small leak from the lavatory on the airplane," said Don Gardner, a safety inspector for the FAA. "During flight, the waste can make an ice ball because of temperatures and altitude."

"During descent it breaks loose and falls away."

FAA officials are conducting an investigation to locate the plane and correct the problem.

"It's very possible that this was a one-time occurrence and that the problem has corrected itself," Gardner said. "We are glad it was limited to property damage and no one was hurt."

Gardner said this type of incident is rare.

"Right now we are not sure what airplane this came off of," Gardner said.

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"It's not supposed to leak. It is supposed to stay within the confines of the airplane until a truck takes it away when it lands." Source: Gaston Gazette, April 25, 1995.

**NESSIE HAS CHINESE COUSIN?**: Scotland's Loch Ness monster has a Chinese cousin, a giant vapor-breathing creature that lives at the bottom of a gorge in a remote mountain area in central China's Hubei province. The shui guai, or water monster, has only revealed itself to frightened peasant fishermen who nicknamed it, Chan, or toad, because of its amphibious appearance.

Authorities from a town near Shennongija National Forest, where the water monster has been seen, swear it exists but they have not rushed to cash-in on the sighting by selling Chan T-shirts and souvenirs.

They, too, are scared of the creature that lurks at the bottom of their gorge and fear offending the gods by recreating its image.

According to sightings, Chan is not as pretty as cousin Nessie. Chan looks like a giant toad, has red hair across its shoulders, a flat head and protruding eyes as big as lanterns. It also has a metre-wide mouth that breaths long plumes of white vapor, fat human-shaped webbed hands with long fingernails, and webbed feet as big as a bathtub.

The first recorded sighting of Chan came in 1962 from peasants fishing in the gorge by throwing explosives into the deep dark water.

Aroused by the noise, Chan allegedly emerged and chased the fishermen about 30 metres into thick surrounding forest.

A spate of sightings over the past 30 years attracted the interest of Professor Lui Minzhuang, from the Shanghai East China University.

He laments he never saw Chan, but strongly believes in its existence and published a book on his findings revealing there had been sightings of a water dragon in the area from the third century A.D.

Prof. Lui believes Chan is a relic from the palaeolithic era or Stone Age, when Shennongjia was submerged, and could be related to Nessie.

Prof. Lui, the country's leading expert on the water monster, has since suffered a stroke and scientists are concerned he may take the mystery to his grave.

But all is not lost. Next month, a team from the Chinese Academy of Science will lead a two-month expedition to Shennongjia to investigate the existence of "rare and strange creatures". Source: Louise Evans, Melbourne, Australia, Herald-Sun, March 20, 1995.

**OREGON BIGFOOT TRAP**: It's bigger than Paul Bunyan and more elusive than Elvis. Call it Yeti, Sasquatch, or Bigfoot, but a trap has been set in the U.S. Forest Service's Applegate Ranger District to capture the northwest's backwoods legend.

The trap, actually a "very large beamed structure, like a small cabin" made of railroad ties was completed in 1974 by North American Wildlife Research of Eugene, said John McKelligott of the Applegate Ranger District. Though no longer operational, its large green sliding metal gate welded open, the trap remains "a curiosity", said McKelligott, for those seeking the unknown, a little fun, or some exercise and local lore.

Perry Lovell found tracks of 18-inch footprints marking six-foot strides in his garden on August 30, 1969, according to an account distributed by the Applegate Ranger District. The garden was on forest service land on a mining claim owned by Lovell.

Word of the footprints reached North American Wildlife Research, which applied for a special-use permit to build the trap at the site of Lovell's claim, according to the Ranger District's account.

The permit was granted (and has expired) and the trap was built before

Applegate Lake Dam was constructed in the early 1980s, said McKelligott. How about current sightings of the big guy? "We've had sporadic sightings in the high country at Silver Fork, in that area," said McKelligott, "but nothing in recent history. That whole thing is a done deal." Yeah, well maybe. These directions to the Bigfoot trap have been provided by the Ranger District office: take Highway 238 from Jacksonville, eight miles to Ruch. Turn left on Upper Applegate Road and travel south for 16 miles. Hart-tish picnic area offers ample parking. The Collings Mountain Trail begins across the road from Hart-tish Park. About 3/4 of a mile up the trail is an abandoned miner's cabin. Just beyond the cabin another trail goes to the left. Take this one up the hill, and in a couple hundred feet you'll come upon the trap. Source: Rogue River, OR Press, May 17, 1995.

**MYSTERIOUS THUNDERSTORM "SPRITES":** Scientists are puzzled over the weirdest atmospheric discovery since cosmic rays: blood-red apparitions with bluish tentacles that flash briefly far above Earth, sometimes near the edge of space.

These so-called "sprites," perhaps bizarre electrical events, quicker than the pop of a flashbulb, are as startling to the lucky few who have glimpsed them as the aurora borealis or exploding meteors.

Thunderstorms appear to trigger sprites, yet they flicker and flash far higher than ordinary lightning. They dance in the void tens of miles above thunderclouds, with no obvious connection. The biggest sprites are incredibly large, filling thousands of cubic miles of air.

Some scientists worry that sprites and a related phenomenon, "blue jets," could threaten high-altitude aircraft, perhaps by damaging their sensitive electronics. As a precaution, the U.S. Air Force is starting a sprite research project at Phillips Laboratory at Hanscom Air Force Base in Bedford, Mass.

An American Airlines pilot who was flying at 33,000 feet near Panama and witnessed a blue jet called it "the most spectacular and unexpected natural event I have seen."

"About five times, a large discharge of lightning at the top of and within the cloud was followed by a vertical shaft of blue light that propagated from the top of the cloud upward to 100,000 feet," wrote the pilot, John G. Hammerstrom of Tavernier, FL, in a 1993 letter to Aviation Week & Space Technology.

Blue jets typically occur just above thunderstorms and, as their name implies, have a bluish color. In contrast, sprites - whose name refers to their elusiveness - are far bigger and occur far higher in the upper atmosphere. Some sprites flash more than 50 miles up in the ionosphere, an electrically charged region best known because its reflects radio signals over great distances, allowing AM listeners in places such as San Diego to listen to talk-show chatter in Detroit.

While there have been some measurements and some theory and computer modeling of sprites, no one has done any definitive study of the potential effects of these phenomena on Air Force aircraft systems such as infrared sensors, according to the head of the Air Force sprite project, physical chemist Laila Jeong.

"The best that can be said is there may be potential effects - and those need to be explored," Ms. Jeong said.

The exploration is under way as the thunderstorm season starts to rumble across the American heartland. Source: Keay Davidson, San Francisco Examiner, June 14, 1995.